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I contend also with equal zeal for the fact of the gradual diminution of the pith of the stem till it dwindles away at last to a mere thread in the mature trunk; and as I am persuaded that the facts which I have adduced in support of the doctrine are new, so I am satisfied that they are also true. Yet truth does not always meet with the ready reception which it merits—not even from philosophers themselves; especially when any new fact occurs that happens to militate against their recorded opinions.

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By WILLIAM YARRELL, Esq., F.L.S., F.Z.S.

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When in 1834 I first exhibited at the meetings of the Zoological Society dissected specimens of males and females of three species of the genus *Syngnathus*, in order to show the peculiarities both of the marsupial and ophidial pipe-fish, I had no difficulty in finding among my specimens females of *S. Ophidion* of Bloch, and I insert here a paragraph from the Report of the Proceedings of the Zoological Society for Oct. 28, 1834, which follows a notice of the exhibition of preparations of males and females of *Syngnathus Acus* and *Typhle*. "Specimens of males and females of *S. Ophidion*, Bloch, were also exhibited. In this species neither male nor female possesses an anal pouch, but the *ova* are carried by the male in hemispheric depressions on the external surface of the *abdomen*, anterior to the *anus*. All the specimens examined having these external depressions proved to be males, with the *testes* in the abdomen very obvious: those without external depressions proved to be all females, internally provided with two lobes of enlarged *ova*."

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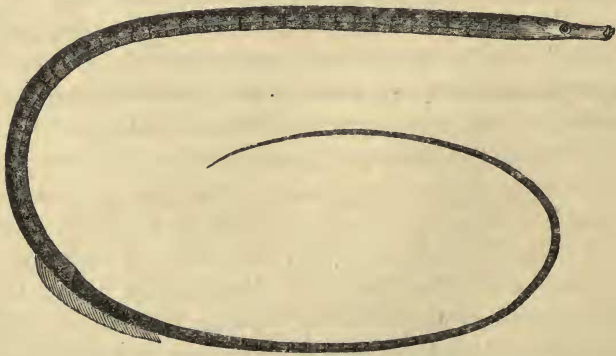
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As short descriptions, without figures, have often led to an erroneous adoption of names, I send herewith a representation engraved on wood of the true *S. Ophidion* of Artedi and Linnæus. I have found it occasionally on the southern coast of England, but it is not very common. It is described by M. Fries in the 8th Number of the 'Annals,' page 103. and by Mr. Jenyns in his 'Manual of British Vertebrate Animals,' page 488.



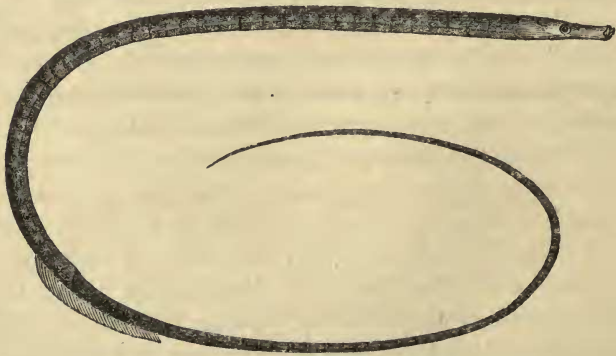
The straight-nosed Pipe-fish. Nat. size.

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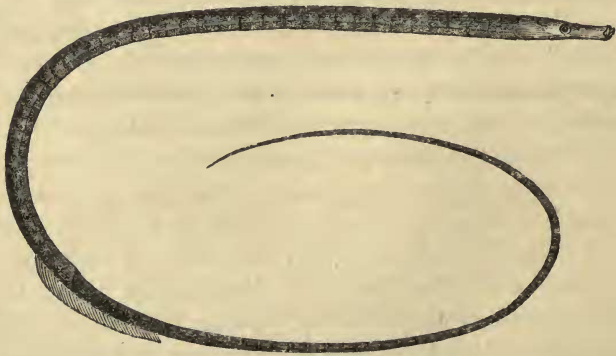
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As short descriptions, without figures, have often led to an erroneous adoption of names, I send herewith a representation engraved on wood of the true *S. Ophidion* of Artedi and Linnæus. I have found it occasionally on the southern coast of England, but it is not very common. It is described by M. Fries in the 8th Number of the 'Annals,' page 103. and by Mr. Jenyns in his 'Manual of British Vertebrate Animals,' page 488.



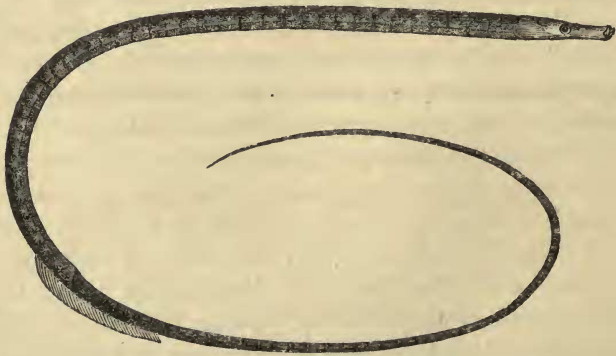
The straight-nosed Pipe-fish. Nat. size.

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The British *Syngnathi*, as suggested by Mr. Jenyns, consist of 6 species: 2 marsupial pipe-fish, *S. Acus* and *S. Typhle*, having true caudal fins; 4 ophidial pipe-fish, which may be again divided into 2 sections, the first of which contains 2 species, *S. æquoreus* and *S. anguineus*, having each a rudimentary caudal fin; the second section also containing 2 species, *S. Ophidion* and *S. lumbriciformis*, in which there is no rudimentary caudal fin, the round tail ending in a fine point.

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Ryder Street, Feb. 18, 1839.

X.—*Descriptions of some new or rare Indian Plants.* By
G. A. W. ARNOTT, Esq., LL.D.

[Continued from p. 23.]

BALSAMODENDRON, Kunth (*Burseraceæ*).

IN the 'Prodromus Floræ Peninsulæ Indiæ Orientalis', i. p. 176, Dr. Wight and I united this as a subgenus to *Protium*, and it still appears to me doubtful if the two be separated by sufficiently important characters: the habit is, however, very different. In consequence of the addition of several new species, the character given by Dr. Wight and me, will require to be slightly altered, as follows:

Calyx late vel tubuloso-campanulatus: torus disciformis in fundo calycis ovarium cingens, externe inter singula stamina verrucula elevata instructus: stamina octo: drupa ovata: nux obtusa angulata.

From this it is obvious that the shape of the calyx and nut

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